# MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Room 445 State Capitol Building February 10, 2015

**Members Present:** Sen. Howard A. Stephenson, Senate Co-Chair

Rep. Steve Eliason, House Co-Chair

Rep. Michael S. Kennedy, House Vice Chair

Sen. J. Stuart Adams
Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard
Sen. Jani Iwamoto
Sen. Aaron Osmond
Sen. Stephen H. Urquhart
Rep. Joel K. Briscoe
Rep. LaVar Christensen
Rep. Bruce Cutler

Rep. Rebecca P. Edwards Rep. Justin L. Fawson Rep. Francis D. Gibson Rep. Bradley G. Last Rep. David E. Lifferth Rep. Marie H. Poulson Rep. Kraig Powell Rep. Norm Thurston

**Members Absent:** Sen. Daniel W. Thatcher

**Staff Present:** Mr. Ben Leishman, Fiscal Analyst

Ms. Angela Oh, Senior Statistician Ms. Brooke Parrish, Secretary

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at <a href="www.le.utah.gov">www.le.utah.gov</a>.

#### 1. Call to Order/Approval of Minutes

Co-Chair Stephenson called the meeting to order at 7:13 a.m.

# 2. Minimum School Program Budget Issues

#### a. Nonlapsing Balances

Mr. Ben Leishman, Fiscal Analyst, explained <u>Minimum School Program: Nonlapsing Balances</u> by Program.

# b. Teacher Salary Supplement

Mr. Leishman explained Minimum School Program – Incentive Compensation Programs. This is

the salary increase for qualified math and science teachers. There is currently a shortfall in the budget for this program.

Rep. Last talked about pending legislation addressing this issue.

Co-Chair Stephenson asked about the Public Education Job Enhancement Program (PEJEP). Mr. Leishman explained that the program includes various forms of salary increases for teachers. All teachers received a salary increase; special educators and math/science teachers were compensated an additional amount. Co-Chair Stephenson discussed ways to continue to increase teacher salaries in the future.

Rep. Edwards talked about pending legislation that would supplement the salary for math teachers.

Dr. Sydnee Dickson, Deputy Superintendent, Utah State Office of Education (USOE) explained that there is currently a shortage of teachers for special education, math, science, computer science and dual immersion. She noted that teachers with an endorsement to teach math/science should qualify for salary increases even if they don't have a degree in the area. Co-Chair Eliason and Dr. Dickson talked about the number of teachers with degrees currently teaching in the state.

Rep. Briscoe stated that it is difficult to find teachers in general. Co-Chair Stephenson asked if there is a shortage of teachers overall. Dr. Dixon replied that there was.

### 3. Budget Request: Utah Schools for the Deaf and Blind

Mr. Joel Coleman, Superintendent, Utah Schools for the Deaf and Blind (USDB) introduced Mr. Scott Jones, Chief Financial Director, USDB.

Mr. Jones explained that the funding increase for the USDB in FY 15 has helped improve service for students in rural areas. He referred members to <a href="Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind">Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind</a> <a href="Budget Request">Budget Request</a> and explained the requests for FY 16.

Sen. Hillyard asked if enrollment growth for the USDB had already been funded under the Minimum School Program (MSP). Mr. Leishman replied that it had not.

Mr. Jones discussed the USDB budget priorities. Funding for the Utah State Instructional Materials Access Center (USIMAC) was cut during the Budget Effectiveness Review. If the money is reinstated it will be used to restructure the program for long term sustainability.

Rep. Fawson asked if USIMAC materials could be sold to other states. Mr. Jones replied that they could.

Sen. Osmond asked for an update on the building plans that had been funded the prior year. Mr. Jones replied that the planning and design for the building is complete and the project is on

budget. Mr. Jones and Co-Chair Stephenson commented on the deplorable state of current USDB facilities.

Rep. Fawson and Co-Chair Eliason commented on the specialized equipment necessary for the USDB. They urged the committee to prioritize the USDB budget requests.

Co-Chair Stephenson asked why special needs students receive different services. Mr. Jones replied that the variety allows the parent to choose the program that best fits their child's needs.

# 4. Budget Request: Utah State Board of Education

Mr. Dave Crandall, Chair, Utah State Board of Education (USBE), introduced Mr. Brad Smith, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, USBE and Ms. Jennifer Johnson, Second Vice Chair, USBE.

Mr. Crandall stated that based on feedback, the Board would like to reinstate the K-3 Reading and To/From Transportation funds cut during the Budget Effectiveness Review. Funds will be reallocated for risk mitigation. The remainder of the cuts would be put into flexible allocation. Unless the sunset is extended, charter schools will switch their pupil accounting method to Average Daily Membership (ADM) plus growth at the end of the year.

Co-Chair Stephenson asked if there would be new incentives for student achievement rather than the current incentives for attendance. Mr. Crandall replied that the Board is looking into it.

Co-Chair Stephenson asked about extending the sunset for charter schools. Mr. Crandall replied that the Board's recommendation is to let them expire. Co-Chair Stephenson asked what the net effect of this change would be. Mr. Crandall said that charter schools will lose \$3 million if they do not backfill the school with their waiting list. Ms. Johnson noted that October 1 and ADM plus growth should be the same if the school retains all its students.

Rep. Cutler asked for an explanation of the ADM formula. Mr. Leishman replied that the core Weighted Pupil Units (WPU) are calculated based on either October 1 enrollment or ADM plus growth. Currently, charter schools are funded based on the higher of those two values which is usually October 1 enrollment. The proposed change is to move charter schools to the ADM plus growth formula.

Rep. Poulson and Rep. Last expressed reservation in changing the charter school enrollment formula without legislation.

Rep. Briscoe asked if funding was adjusted based on ADM audits throughout the year. Mr. Williams stated that because funding is based off of prior year enrollment, funding is static throughout the year. Rep. Briscoe and Mr. Williams discussed how the formula change would impact charter schools.

Rep. Powell asked why traditional schools were required to fund charter schools. Mr. Crandall responded that the property tax base is used to educate all students, not just those that are going to regular district schools. Rep. Powell stated that he is opposed to making public schools fund charter schools. Co-Chair Stephenson added that rural areas are also negatively impacted by charter schools.

Mr. Dave Thomas, First Vice-Chair, USBE, referred members to <u>Utah State Board of Education</u> <u>Budget Requests 2015 General Session</u> and <u>Utah State Board of Education Legislative Priorities</u> <u>2015 General Session</u>.

Rep. Christensen asked for a breakdown of federal funds. Mr. Thomas explained that federal funds come in three forms: Special Education, Child Nutrition and Title 1. There are nine types of waivers.

Rep. Briscoe discussed Dual Immersion Growth (USOE Ongoing: Line 9) <u>USBE Legislative</u> Priorities 2015.

Rep. Lifferth discussed Technology Initiative (USOE One-Time: Line 1) <u>USBE Legislative</u> <u>Priorities 2015.</u>

Rep. Fawson asked for the value of the Capital Outlay Program, pre-recession. Mr. Williams replied that the values differ wildly from year to year. Mr. Leishman added that the fund has been at its current level since 2011. Rep. Fawson advocated putting more money into the fund.

Ms. Johnson explained the rational for placing risk mitigation at the top of the priority list.

#### 5. Special Education Intensive Services Pool

# a. Legislative Coalition for People with Disabilities

Ms. Jan Ferre, Chair, Legislative Coalition for People with Disabilities, talked about the history of special education.

Ms. Jennifer Adams, mother of a special needs child, discussed the need to increase special education funding. She played a video of special need student Justin Miller.

#### b. Melanie Berthold

Ms. Melanie Berthold, volunteer in special needs classrooms, discussed the need to increase special education funding.

# 6. Property Tax Equalization – Sen. Osmond

Sen. Osmond discussed S.B. 97: Property Tax Equalization Amendments, 2015 General Session.

He distributed a copy of the bill and the handout "<u>Utah Property Tax Equalization S.B. 97</u>" to the committee.

Rep. Poulson asked if the bill addressed tax effort and bonds. Sen. Osmond replied that the bill deals with new money that isn't already allocated. The bill only funds existing programs in districts that are already making an adequate taxing effort. It doesn't affect bonds.

# 7. Budget Request: Science Outreach

Mr. Mike Washburn, Chief Executive Officer, Thanksgiving Point and Mr. Christian Burell, Director of Education, Loveland Living Planet Aquarium, distributed the handout "<u>Investing in Utah's Teachers and Students</u>." They requested \$1.56 million for the program.

# 8. Budget Request: Beverly Taylor Sorenson Elementary Arts Learning Program

Ms. Lisa Cluff, Director, Friends of Artworks for Kids, distributed the folder "ART." She requested \$7 million for the Beverly Taylor Sorenson Elementary Arts Learning Program (BTS).

Mr. Rick Nielson, Superintendent, Nebo School District and Mr. Bob Zentner, Principal, Summit Academy Charter School spoke in support of the BTS program.

#### 9. USTAR Centers

#### a. Dr. Cade Douglas, Superintendent, Sevier School District

Dr. Douglas explained the K-12 Utah Science Technology and Research (<u>USTAR</u>) program. He requested that the \$6.2 million in cuts to the program be reinstated.

# 10. Budget Request: ProStart

Ms. Melva Sine, President, Utah Restaurant Association, distributed a folder with information on ProStart. She requested \$250,000 one-time for the program.

Mr. Peter Hudson, Chef Mentor, ProStart; Ms. Anna Care, ProStart member; Mr. Jonathan Care, Anna's father; and Mr. Matthew Mitchell, ProStart member, spoke in support of the ProStart program.

# 11. Requests for Appropriation

# a. School Nurses (Sen. Mayne)

Ms. Kim Lowe, President, Utah School Nurse Association and Ms. Kim Frank, Utah State Charter School Network, spoke in support of the School Nurse program. They distributed the binder "USNA" to the committee. They requested \$1.2 million in ongoing funds for the program.

## b. Paraeducators (Sen. Mayne)

Sen. Mayne requested \$100,000 in ongoing funds for the program. Ms. Sarah Krebs, Cache County School District explained the program. She distributed the handout "Math, Science, Social Studies."

### c. UPSTART (Sen. Adams)

Sen. Adams distributed the "UPSTART Program Outcomes" brochure to the committee. He requested \$2.5 million in ongoing funds for the program.

# d. Early Intervention K-3 Literacy (Sen. Urquhart)

Sen. Urquhart requested \$5 million one-time and \$5 million in ongoing funds for the program. He distributed the handout "Roadmap to Success: Measuring Progress in Utah" to the committee.

## e. Statewide Online Education Program (Sen. Stephenson)

Co-Chair Stephenson requested \$250,000 one-time for the program.

#### f. Peer Assistance Review (Rep. Moss)

Rep. Moss requested \$500,000 one-time for the program. She distributed the handout "Peer Assistance and Review (PAR)" to the committee.

# g. Charter School Professional Development (Rep. Gibson)

Rep. Gibson requested \$200,000 in ongoing funds for the program. He distributed the handout "Request for \$200,000 Appropriation" to the committee.

# h. IT Academy (Sen. Stephenson)

Mr. Keith Ward, Microsoft Account Executive, requested \$500,000 in ongoing funds for the program. He distributed the handouts "Utah IT Academy Program Update" and "Utah Technology Council's Legislative Meet & Greet" to the committee.

# i. Carson Smith Special Needs Scholarships (Sen. Bramble)

Ms. Sheryl Smith, Carson Smith's mother, requested \$975,000 in ongoing funds for the program.

# j. Legacy Music Alliance (Rep. Edwards)

Mr. Gaylen D. Rust, Founder/Chair, Legacy Music Alliance; Mr. Michael Huff, Executive Program Director, Legacy Music Alliance; and Mr. Keith Sorensen, Director of K-12 Programs,

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Legacy Music Alliance, requested \$100,000 one-time for the program.
k. Civility Advancement (Rep. Christensen)
Rep. Christensen requested \$75,000 one-time and \$75,000 in ongoing funds for the program.
l. Civics Education (Rep. Eliason)
Co-Chair Eliason requested \$150,000 in ongoing funds for the program.
m. Computer Science/Engineering Teachers Pay (Sen. Stephenson)
Co-Chair Stephenson requested \$1 million one-time and \$1.5 million in ongoing funds to increase the salary for qualified Computer Science/Engineering Teachers.
n. Student Leadership Skills Grant (Sen. Osmond)
Sen. Osmond requested \$750,000 in ongoing funds for the program. He distributed the handout "Plymouth Elementary School Letters" to the committee.
MOTION: Rep. Gibson moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Rep. Steve Eliason, Co-Chair

Sen. Howard A. Stephenson, Co-Chair